

PNS OPEN FORUM MINUTES
May 29, 2001
PNS CONFERENCE IN KELOWNA

1. Minutes
 - Approved as written
2. Old Business

Associate Membership Update

 - 50 members as of date
3. Multi-state bid
 - Going to do a multi-state bid (Oregon and Washington) for this year. Hoping to expand this to the states of Idaho and Montana next year and possibly other states. This method gives the vendors a consistent way to bid. WSCA may become involved with this concept. ***As an update, the joint Washington/Oregon bid will not happen this year.
 - Target date this year – bid out within three (3) weeks
 - All products need to be on the QPL prior to award of any contract
 - Only the major products that are listed on QPL will be bid on the WA/OR solicitation
 - Experimental products can be purchased by Washington
 - The bid will be put out on a statewide basis, but will be awarded by regions
4. Bid Specifications Update
 - Currently re-writing specifications. Put in some new sampling requirements of dry products. Added in some requirements in regards to other test requirements (BOD, TOD, nitrates, etc) for liquid materials. Cleaning up language to have it read better and be easier for the vendor and end user. Changing the way that we take liquid samples – will take the initial sample to see if they can unload the truck; will draw 1/3 of our sample at the start, 1/3 about 1/2 way through and 1/3 towards the end of the load.
 - Ice cutting capabilities – very difficult to do with consistent results
 - Toxicity will require either fat head minnows(USA) or rainbow trout(Canada)
5. PNS Recognized Laboratories
 - This will now be called PNS recognized labs
 - Checking the test protocols of various labs in conducting the tests as per PNS criteria
 - Levelton, Analytical Labs, SRC, Forensic Dynamics for the friction testing
6. Experimental Category
 - Products that we currently don't have a category for.
 - Looking at developing a category for non-chloride products.
 - Will put out a new update as to what is on this list
 - Category 7 & Category 3 will go into the new non-chloride category and be designated as liquid or solid
7. QPL Update
 - Revised QPL posted by mid to end of June
 - The most current version is on the WEB and was handed out at the meeting

- Some products can be approved in as little as 30 days or it can take months, depending on if all the information has been submitted or not
- Have discussed in the past, that products need to have a verification test if they have been on the list for 3 years. What should we require for testing for re-qualification? Need to have the manufacturer “fill in the gaps” of missing information that have been added to the specs and/or requirements since the product was approved. If we have information that is current, we need to contact the vendor and see if the product is still being manufactured.

8. Dilution Ratio Update

- Had looked at this issue. Some studies have been done. PNS specs are built on dilution ratio of 100 to 1. Just received the final report from Levelton Engineering (2-1/2 year study). Their feelings on dilution are more than 500 to 1; not necessary to do any more studies on this subject; looking at doing further research in other areas and may look at this at a later date; the Levelton report should be available in about a month.
- PNS wants to read the final report before they decide what to do with the numbers

9. Alberta’s request to join PNS

- Moh Lali with Alberta Ministry of Transportation introduced himself and said they would like to join PNS as it is a premiere conference.

10. PNS Snow Conference 2002

- Boise on June 3, 4, 5, 2002 at the Bank of America Center and Convention Center
- Will not have a drivers skill area – no available space for this
- Will have a trade show
- Peer forums – opportunity for groups to talk amongst themselves on issues that concern them

11. Concrete Scaling & Spalling

- There have been concerns raised about damage to concrete.
- Bridge deck damage – how to protect the investment of our infrastructure. Montana is starting a project that will coat our bridges with silane and re-treat every three- (3) years.
- Sidewalks and driveways – many complaints from people and the concrete industry. What is the concrete formulation? What is the compaction? What products are we using on it? Montana Contractors Association has contacted MDT to have a cooperative study done on this subject.

12. Damage Control

- Some damage from deicers is attributed to increased freeze/thaw cycles. Reports on mag. chloride impacts to concrete do not reference the freeze/thaw cycles, but instead reference damage done specifically by the chemical reaction between mag. chloride and the concrete. Reports use dolomitic concrete for tests, but this type of concrete represents a very small part of what is on the ground in Idaho.
- Variations in concrete composition contribute to damage.
- MDT is looking at high performance concrete, and silane applications to reduce impacts and protect structures.
- Dave does not dispute conclusions of reports, but suggests concrete quality varies and report data may not be applicable to Idaho.
- Alkaline aggregate, etc. used to make concrete may have a higher pH that is often attributed to deicers, but is not.

- Dan suggests there may be an opportunity for deicer vendors to partner with the states to research these issues. There are lots of issues here. Dan will be the contact point for vendors interested in participating. IMC, America West, Redmond would like the record to show that they will support the effort.
- Dave summarized damage control issues including, power pole fires, damage to wiring, wheels, pine needles, etc. We are receiving a lot of complaints from a lot of people. We are doing all we can to investigate these claims.
- States are investigating complaints, doing tests on damaged materials, as well as corrosion testing on different metals to determine if our deicers are actually causing these problems. We need to establish a timeline of how long it takes corrosion to occur.
- In researching corrosion complaints we need to focus on what is relevant. Many corrosion tests are very aggressive and are designed to show expected corrosion after 20 years of exposure. Those results are not designed to demonstrate short-term wear.
- Vendor expressed frustration with lack of cooperation from power companies, trucking industries, etc.
- As a group we need to address negative press. Negative press focuses on corrosion, but we need to get information out about accident reductions, etc. People forget why we are doing deicing. There are huge benefits to anti-icing and deicing. We also need to encourage people to wash vehicles (many complaints are from people that admit to not washing vehicle).
- Again, if there is any product research done that will help address complaints please forward to us. Also, let us know what type of complaints industry is getting and how they are addressing them.
- **Action Item:** PNS will put positive press information on our website. Tom Strandberg is now in a position to help with this effort. We need to start “ringing our own bell” to let our customers know about the positive things we are doing.

13. Open Forum and Q & A

- The train the trainer course will be ready this summer and agencies can take advantage of the course to have people certified trainers; \$2,500 trainer course; student courses would be \$50 per person. The intent is to have this training available to everyone.
- Ended with a suggestion from vendor that, as an industry, they are considered guilty until found innocent. Vendor suggested there are many issues and thus more opportunity and need for cooperative work between agencies and vendors.